

FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: August 9, 2018

Agenda Item: Clark Fork River Closure for DEQ Cleanup of Grant-Kohrs Ranch Area (R2)

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Proposed

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 5 minutes

Background

The Department of Environmental Quality is conducting a cleanup project to remove contaminated soils in the streambanks and historic floodplain within the Upper Clark Fork River drainage. The next phase of this project involves the area around Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site (see map attached). DEQ will begin cleanup of this area of the Clark Fork in October 2018.

Public safety is a concern during the construction period due to heavy equipment working in the area. DEQ is asking for a river closure from October 2018 to October 2020 to protect the public while allowing the cleanup work to occur. The department is proposing a biennial closure rule allowing FWP to close the Clark Fork River to all public occupation and recreation including, but not limited to, floating, swimming, wading, and boating through Grant-Kohrs Ranch.

Public Involvement Process & Results Kohrs

With commission approval, FWP would solicit public comment on the proposed biennial closure rule. The results would be presented to the Commission with a final recommendation on October 17, 2018.

Alternatives & Analysis

1. The commission approves the request by FWP to go out for comment on the proposed biennial rule.
2. The commission does not approve the request to go out for public comment on the proposed biennial rule.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

The department is proposing to solicit public comment on a biennial closure rule allowing FWP to close the Clark Fork River to all public occupation and recreation including, but not limited to, floating, swimming, wading, and boating through Gant Kohrs Ranch from October of 2018 to October of 2020.

Proposed Motion

I move that the commission allow FWP to solicit public comment on the proposed biennial rule to close the Clark Fork River to public occupation and recreation through Grant-Kohrs Ranch National Historic Site.